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SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT
COUNCIL



ANNUAL REPORT OF THE
MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1957

Medical Officer of Health -

NOEL F. PEARSON, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

Chief Public Health Inspector -

F.E. RAEBURN, M.S.I.A.

Council Offices,
STURMINSTER NEWTON,
Dorset.

1st September, 1958.

To The Chairman and Members,
Sherborne Urban District Council.

Madam and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my Annual Report for the year 1957.

I regret that, owing to the poliomyelitis vaccination drive during the current year, it has not been possible for me to present this report to you at an earlier date in accordance with my usual custom.

The report is prepared and will be circulated in accordance with the requirements of the Sanitary Officers (Outside London) Regulations 1935 and 1951.

The report shows that the health of the district remained satisfactory. Although measles was epidemic during the second quarter of the year there was no outbreak of more serious communicable disease.

The vital statistics show that only fifty seven deaths occurred during the year compared with eighty eight during the preceeding year, giving a low record death rate of 7.58 compared with 11.5 for the Country as a whole.

Once again there were no deaths in infants under one year of age.

I am indebted to Mr. Bean and Mr. Raeburn your Public Health Inspectors for their co-operation and help during the year, and for assistance in preparing this report. I am also indebted to my clerk, Mrs. P. Dyas, for her efficient services.

I would also like to thank you, Madam and Gentlemen, for your courtesy and consideration throughout the year.

I have the honour to be,

Your obedient Servant,



Medical Officer of Health.

SHERBORNE URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR

1957.

A. Area - 1,650 acres.

Rateable value: 1st April 1958 - £88,652

Production of a penny rate: 1957/58 - £323 (estimated).
1958/59 - £330 (estimated).

Vital Statistics.

Population (Registrar General's Estimate) - 7,300.

LIVE BIRTHS.

	Male.	Female		Comparative Rates	
				(a) Sherborne U.D.	(b) England & Wales.
Total	44	36	)Rate per 1,000		
Legitimate	44	34	)resident pop:		
Illegitimate	Nil	2	)= 11.0	13.9	16.1

STILLBIRTHS.

Total	Nil	2	Rate per 1,000 live & stillbirths = 24.5	24.4	22.4
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DEATHS.

Total	32	25	Rate per 1,000 resident pop: = 7.8	7.58	11.5
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Deaths in infants under one year.	Nil	Nil	Infantile death rate per 1,000 live births = Nil	Nil	24.8
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	<u>1957.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1954.</u>
Deaths from Maternal Causes	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " Tuberculosis	Nil	Nil	2	1
" " Cancer of the Lungs	1	1	5	1
" " Other Cancer	7			
" " Coronary Disease(Angina)	9	11	5	9
" " Other Heart or Vascular diseases	16			
" " Influenza	2	2	1	Nil
" " Pneumonia	6	4	7	3
" " Motor vehicle accidents	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
" " All other accidents	Nil	1	4	2
" " Suicide	Nil	1	Nil	Nil

B. Nature of the District.

Sherborne is a trading centre of an agricultural area, as well as being a tourist and educational centre. Principal industries include light engineering, glove making, dairies and silk mills.

C. Personal Health Services in the District.

The vaccination against poliomyelitis of all children in the district registered for treatment before March 1955 was completed during the year.

The personal Health Services, including the Ambulance Service, continued to be provided by the County Council.

With the increasing demand from old people for home help assistance it is again to be regretted that it has not yet been possible to develop this service fully locally, in so far as it has not been possible to find locally anyone prepared to accept the duty of Local Voluntary Supervisor in the Scheme. It would appear that so long as the full development of the service, locally, depends on voluntary effort the maximum benefits of the scheme (which are appreciable) will not be enjoyed in the District.

It is satisfactory to note that the increasing demand on Health Visitors time made by the increasing attention which they have now to give to old people has been met by the appointment of an additional Health Visitor in the North Dorset area with a corresponding reduction in the case load of each Health Visitor.

The Public Health Laboratory Services have proved in all respects most helpful and satisfactory.

The Yeatman Hospital (West Dorset Group Hospitals Committee) provides the local hospital requirements, both in and out patient.

D. Environmental Health Services.

PUBLIC HEALTH STAFF.

Medical Officer of Health (Part time) - Noel F. Pearson,
M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

He also acts as Medical Officer of Health to four other District Councils in the North Dorset Area and as Assistant County Medical Officer to the Dorset County Council.

The time available which he has to devote to his duties with your Council is slightly more than one half day per week.

Chief Public Health Inspector - C.E. Bean,
(until 13.12.57) (Part time) M.S.I.A., A.R.S.H.

Assistant Public Health Inspector - F.E. Raeburn, M.S.I.A.
(Full time)
(until on 13.12.57 he succeeded Mr. Bean as Public Health Inspector.

The Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Surveyor and Water Engineer.

The Assistant Public Health Inspector also carries out the duties of Meat Inspector.

Clerical Staff - Three clerks (part time).

WATER SUPPLY.

Rainfall	-	<u>1955.</u>	<u>1956.</u>	<u>1957.</u>
		28.67 ins.	27.58 ins.	29.37 ins.

Regular monthly samples from each of the Council's supplies totalling 116, were submitted for bacteriological examination and a sample from each source was submitted for chemical examination. Daily testing of the supplies for residual chlorine was carried out. The fluorine content of the supplies was shown to be between 0.2 and 0.3 parts per million.

A number of private well supplies are used in the district for industrial purposes. From these supplies 30 samples of water were taken and submitted for bacteriological examination during the year.

2,063 houses in the Urban District are provided with a water supply piped into the house. 71 houses obtain their water by means of standpipes.

DRAINAGE AND SEWERAGE.

Routine repairs to sewers were carried out during the year and further consideration has been given to the improvement of the existing Sewage Disposal Works. An electrical night flow pump was provided at the works, being one step towards the improvement of their efficiency.

PUBLIC CLEANSING.

House Refuse. The Local Authority's scheme provides for the collection of house refuse weekly and disposal by controlled tipping.

Salvage. The following amounts of salvage have been collected during the year in conjunction with regular refuse collection:-

		<u>Tons.</u>	<u>Cwts.</u>	<u>Qrs.</u>
Paper	-	85.	13.	2.
Metal	-	16.	8.	2.
Rags	-	1.	14.	2.

Cesspool Emptying. No provision is required to be made in the district.

RIVERS AND STREAMS POLLUTION.

The Somerset Rivers Board, in the course of its duties, have continued to exercise close observation on the purity of the River Yeo.

Buttermilk discharged into the River Yeo through the surface water system of the towns drainage system was traced to a Milk Factory which led to steps being taken to obtain an alternative method of disposal.

SHOPS ACTS.

In addition to the Council's direct responsibilities under the Shops Act, 1950, the Council has also had delegated to it the County Council's functions under Section 38(3) (4) and (5) of the Act.

No. of inspections carried out	10
No. of defects found	1
No. of notices served	1
No. of notices complied with	1

FACTORIES ACT, 1937.

	<u>No. of premises on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
(i) Factories in which Sections 1,2,3, 4 & 6 are to be enforced by Local Authority	6	7
(ii) Factories not included in (i) in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority	53	54
C/Forward	59	61

Factories Act, 1937 (Continued)

	<u>No. of Premises on Register.</u>	<u>Inspections.</u>
B/Forward	59	61
(iii) Other premises in which Section 7 is enforced by the Local Authority (excluding outworkers' premises	-	-
Total	59	61

	<u>No. of cases in which defects were:- Found.</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary Conveniences - Unsuitable or defective	9	7
Want of Cleanliness	1	1
No. of Outworkers - 44		

SMOKE ABATEMENT.

Repeated approaches made to the owners of two installations in the town causing nuisance, whilst obtaining some amelioration have not resulted in a permanent cure of the nuisance.

Under the provisions of the Clean Air Act, 1956 two new installations were inspected and approved.

SWIMMING BATHS.

There is one private swimming bath in the district available for use by the public during part of the year. When used by the public the bath is under the control of the Local Authority and the water is chlorinated.

After only ten days use the use of the bath was discontinued as a precautionary measure when poliomyelitis was unduly prevalent in the nearby district.

MOVEABLE DWELLINGS AND CAMPING SITES.

No. of moveable dwellings licensed during the year	10
No. of camping sites licensed in the district	2

Although one of the licensed camping sites is reasonably suitable for the use to which it is put, the other one is not satisfactory. Whilst the housing situation has been acute, use of this site has been permitted for a number of caravans, as residential accommodation for prolonged periods.

Consideration was again given to the establishment of a permanent caravan site adjoining Culverhayes Car Park, provided with the necessary sanitary facilities, for the temporary use of tourists passing through the district. The Council decided, however, to take no further action in this direction.

VERMINOUS PREMISES.

Two instances of cockroach infestation were successfully treated with Gamexane

PREVENTION OF DAMAGE BY PESTS ACT, 1949.

The duties of the District Council under The Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949 are carried out in the district by The North Dorset Joint Rodent Committee whose activities cover the five districts in North Dorset and the Beaminster Rural District.

The total treatments undertaken in the district during the year numbered 496.

RAG FLOCK AND OTHER FILLING MATERIALS ACT, 1951

There are no premises subject to registration under the above-mentioned Act within the district.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

No. of licensed premises	1
No. of inspections made	1

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACTS, 1948 and 1951 - Section 47.

No action was called for or taken during the year toward the compulsory removal of a person requiring care and attention under the Act.

HOUSING

Total number of houses in the district 2,134

Inspection of dwelling houses during the year -

No. of dwelling houses inspected during the year	50
No. of inspections made	69

No. of informal notices served	5
No. of informal notices complied with	4
No. of statutory notices served	Nil
No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil

No. of houses reported under Section 11 of the Housing Act, 1936	Nil
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Action taken by the Local Authority in respect of such houses -

Demolition Orders made	Nil
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Undertakings accepted for -

Closure	Nil
Reconditioning	Nil
Other Action	Nil

No. of houses included in Clearance Areas during the year 17

Slum Clearance

Clearance areas comprising seventeen houses were represented during the year.

Clearance Orders, by the Council were made in respect of 13 of these houses.

Action in respect of 4 of these houses was postponed in order to give the owners an opportunity to submit a scheme for the improvement of some of the houses in the area and demolition of others.

Overcrowding.

Five cases of 'Statutory' overcrowding were found and abated during the year.

Houses Let in Lodgings.

Two houses are known to be let in lodgings.

Housing Act, 1957.

This Act came into operation during the year, consolidating the housing Acts generally. It made little change to the existing law as to housing and I regret that the opportunity was not taken to amend the existing definition of 'unfitness' when applied to a dwelling house. Until there is a clear definition (having only one interpretation) as to when a house is 'fit or 'unfit' for human habitation the administration of the Sections of the Act dealing with housing defects will continue to cause the administrative and practical difficulties referred to in my report for last year.

Improvement Grants.

Three applications for Grants were received during the year, of which two were successful.

'Unfit' Houses occupied under Licence.

Two houses on which demolition or closing orders have been made were occupied under licence at the end of the year.

New Houses.

One new house was provided by private enterprise during the year and thirty two by the Council. There are now 657 Council houses in the district.

Forty-four families were rehoused by the Council during the year. At the end of the year the names of 150 applicants were on the waiting list of whom 42 were living outside the district.

It is satisfactory to note that in spite of increasing Local Authority Expenditure the Council has continued unabated, throughout the year, its housing programme.

Further plans are being prepared to extend the housing provision for elderly people and these will meet a very real need.

Apart from this need and the limited requirements resulting from slum clearance over the next few years, the pressure on the need for housing for general purposes has undoubtedly declined and the Council can now quite properly review its future programme in the knowledge that it has met the more urgent requirements.

Plans are also under consideration to bring some of the older Council houses up to modern standards as far as amenities are concerned.

The points scheme used by the Council in its selection of tenants has appeared to work equitably and satisfactorily.

The rent rebate scheme adopted by the Council has undoubtedly assisted tenants in a low income group who previously must have suffered appreciable hardship in meeting these inevitable rent increases, whilst, at the same time, it has appeared to be acceptable to other tenants.

The improved colour scheme on the Council housing estates have materially improved the appearance of the estates and cannot but have been of psychological benefit to those who live there.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD SUPPLIES.

1. Milk.

Food & Drugs Act, 1955.

No. of 'dealers' subject to registration by the District Council under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Raw Milk) Regulations, 1949 3

No. of 'dealers' subject to licensing under regulation 14 of the Milk (Special Designations) (Pasteurised and Sterilised Milk) Regulations 1949 3

No. of 'dairies' in the district subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 3

No. of 'distributors' subject to registration under regulation 8 of the Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 5

Samples

No. of samples of milk taken and submitted for examination during the year -

Tuberculin Tested	<u>11</u>
Pasteurised	<u>51</u>
Undesignated	<u>9</u>

No. of samples of milk subjected to a guinea pig inoculation test for Tuberculosis Nil.

Milk & Dairies Regulations, 1949 - Regulation 20.

No action was called for or taken during the year.

2. Other Food Premises.

The number of food premises in the area, by type of business:-

Hotels, restaurants, cafes and boarding houses	<u>24</u>
Canteens - School and workplace	<u>6</u>
Confectioners	<u>10</u>
Meat and Fish	<u>10</u>
Grocers	<u>9</u>
Mixed Stores	<u>6</u>
Boarding Schools and other residential institutions	<u>7</u>
Food Factories	<u>2</u>
Stalls	<u>2</u>
Other	<u>7</u>

No. of above subject to registration under Section 16 of the Food & Drugs Act, 1955 in respect of -

Ice-cream	<u>30</u>
Sausages & Prepared Meats	<u>3</u>
Fish and Chips	<u>2</u>

No. of samples of ice-cream submitted for Methylene Blue Test 89

Eighty-three of the above-mentioned 'food premises' were inspected during the year, 208 inspections being carried out.

Full co-operation was obtained in the enforcement of the Food Hygiene Regulations and no 'exemption certificates' were recommended or granted.

No observations are called for in respect of the Ice-cream (Heat Treatment) Regulations, 1947 - 1952 which work satisfactorily in the District.

Byelaws in respect of the Handling and Wrapping of Food etc., are operative in the District.

Food Inspection.

Butchers' and Other Shops.

No. of inspections during the year 14

Quantities of foodstuffs condemned - 184 lbs.

Disposal of Condemned Food.

All food condemned at food shops is disposed of at the refuse tip and meat from the slaughterhouses at a knackers yard.

Slaughterhouses. There are two licensed slaughterhouses in the district.

The irregular hours of slaughtering at the Slaughterhouses makes it difficult to achieve a 100% inspection of carcasses by your Meat Inspector and does waste time which could usefully be occupied in other public health duties.

Sunday slaughtering (which would appear to be unnecessary) is burdensome to your Meat Inspector, but the Council has given what assistance it can in this direction by providing assistance, alternate Sundays, from the Meat Inspector of the Rural District. This assistance is very much appreciated by Mr. Raeburn.

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	819	6,336	1,896 +	1,047
Number inspected	819	6,336	1,896	1,047
<u>All diseases except Tuberculosis & Cysticerci:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned.	2	26	6	8
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned	120	62	77	224
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than tuberculosis and cysticerci	17.09%	1.39%	4.38%	22.16%
<u>Tuberculosis only:</u>				
Whole carcasses condemned.	1	2	-	-
Carcasses of which some part or organ was condemned.	38	-	-	14
Percentage of the number inspected affected with tuberculosis	4.76%	0.031%	-	1.33%

Carcases and Offal Inspected and Condemned (Continued)

	Cattle Including Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
<u>Cysticercosis:</u>				
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned.	1	-	-	-
Carcases submitted to treatment by refrigeration	1	-	-	-
Gerneralised and totally condemned	-	-	-	-
+ Includes 10 Goats and 1 Deer.				

SUMMARY OF SANITARY INSPECTIONS CARRIED OUT.

Total No. of inspections (under all headings)	466
Total No. of informal notices served	32
Total No. of informal notices complied with	28
Total No. of statutory notices served	Nil
Total No. of statutory notices complied with	Nil
Total No. of prosecutions	Nil

E. NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.

Other than Tuberculosis -

<u>Disease.</u>	<u>Total Cases Notified.</u>
Measles	293
Scarlet Fever	1
Whooping Cough	16
Puerperal Pyrexia	4
Sonne Dysentery	1

Tuberculosis -

	<u>New Cases Notified</u>	
	<u>Respiratory.</u>	<u>Non-Respiratory.</u>
	2	1

Food Poisoning -

No cases of food poisoning were notified during the year.

NOEL F. PEARSON.

Medical Officer of Health.

